JUNE 1992

# ACADEMIC MEDICINE

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

AAMC

Fostering Integrity in Scientific Research

Modeling the End of Mandatory Retirement for U.S. Medical School Faculty

A Model for Training in Population-based Medicine

Characteristics of a Productive Research Setting

Difficulties of Teaching Ethics in Residencies

Matriculants and Preventive Health Requirements

Using Faculty Consensus to Develop an Ethics Course

Stress and Support for the Pregnant Resident

Students' Expectations about Minorities

AAMC Data Report: Results of the 1992 NRMP

Book Reviews

VOLUME 67 • NUMBER SIX

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Publishing Services: Hanley & Belfus, Inc.
210 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

JUNE 1992
VOLUME 67
NUMBER SIX

# ACADEMIC MEDICINE

JOURNAL OF THE
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*Academic Medicine* (ISSN 1040-2446) is owned and published monthly by the Association of American Medical Colleges, 2450 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. Publishing services by Hanley & Belfus, Inc., 210 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. Second-class postage paid at Washington, DC and additional mailing offices.

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Subscription rates: U.S., Canada, Latin America—$60.00/1 year; $110/2 years; $155/3 years; $30.00/year for students; and $7.00 per single copy. All other locations—$70.00/1 year ($40.00/1 year students); $130/2 years; $185/3 years; and $7.00 per single copy.

Subscriptions received before June 30 will be honored for the calendar year: (January through December). Issues from January up to receipt of first issue of new subscription will be mailed automatically.

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*Advertising*: Diane Sherel, Advertising Manager, Hanley & Belfus, Inc., 210 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; (215) 546-0313.
*Subscriptions and changes of address*: Membership and Publication Orders, AAMC, 2450 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; (202) 828-0416.
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# AAMC DATA REPORT

## Results of the National Resident Matching Program for 1992

The number of U.S. seniors who enrolled in the NRMP in 1992 decreased by 66 to 15,202. The number of U.S. seniors who subsequently withdrew did not change significantly. A total of 12,957 U.S. seniors were matched into PGY1 positions for a match rate of 92.4%, compared with 93.1% in 1991. This was the largest percentage of unmatched U.S. seniors (7.6%) since 1984, when 7.8% were unmatched. This is the first time the unmatched rate has been greater than 7% since 1985. The number of U.S. foreign medical graduate (U.S. FMG) applicants continued to decline from a peak of 2,922 in 1984. In 1992, there were 983 U.S. FMG applicants and 366 subsequently withdrew from the Match. In 1986 the match rate for U.S. FMG applicants was 38.6% and has steadily increased each subsequent year. In 1992, 58.7% of the U.S. FMG applicants were matched to PGY1 positions. (U.S. FMGs are U.S. citizens who obtained their degrees from foreign medical schools.) The foreign-born foreign medical graduate applicants (alien FMG applicants) increased by 1,554, an increase of 38.1% since 1991. Of the alien FMG applicants, 43.2% withdrew from the Match, a slight decline from 1991, when 44.5% of the alien FMG applicants withdrew from the Match. These large withdrawal rates suggest that some alien FMG applicants obtain positions outside of the Match. Of the 3,196 active alien FMG applicants, 2,014 (63.0%) were matched to PGY1 positions. In 1985 the match rate for alien FMG applicants was 21.6%, with steady increases until 1991. The 1992 match rate was slightly lower than in 1991 (63.4%) and marks the first decline in the match rates of alien FMG applicants since 1985. (Alien FMG applicants are non-U.S. citizens who obtained their degrees from foreign medical schools.)

The number of PGY1 positions offered increased by 1% to 20,394. The largest increase in the number of positions offered occurred in emergency medicine, with an increase of 18%. The number of positions offered in the surgical specialties also increased slightly, to 685 from 647 in 1991, as a result of the increases in orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, and urology. While the total number of positions offered in internal medicine remained unchanged at 7,403, the distribution of positions changed. The number of preliminary internal medicine positions offered declined by 97 (4.7%), while there was a 7.3% increase in the number of primary care internal medicine positions offered.

The number of U.S. seniors matched to positions in family practice, obstetrics–gynecology, and psychiatry increased in 1992. The increased number of U.S. seniors matched into the support specialties was primarily a result of the increases in emergency medicine. The increase in the number of U.S. students matched into positions in the surgical specialties was primarily a result of the increases in orthopedic surgery. The number of U.S. seniors matched into positions in general surgery and pediatrics was unchanged. The number of U.S. seniors matched into positions in categorical internal medicine or preliminary internal medicine programs decreased, but the number increased in primary care internal medicine.

The fill rate for total applicants decreased slightly from 84.9% in 1991 to 83.3% in 1992. Total applicant match rates increased in family practice, general surgery, pediatrics, and preventive medicine. The increases in match rates can be attributed to the increase in the match rates of FMGs in family practice and pediatrics. The total applicant match rates decreased in psychiatry, anesthesiology, physical medicine, nuclear medicine, and transitional year programs. Total applicant match rates remained relatively unchanged in obstetrics and gynecology, urology, plastic surgery, emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery, pathology, diagnostic radiology, and therapeutic radiology. Among internal medicine programs, total applicant match rates increased in the categorical, primary care, and preliminary programs. The increase in the total applicant match rate in categorical internal medicine was primarily a result of the massive increase in the match rate of FMG applicants. The increased match rates in family medicine, pediatrics, and primary care internal medicine may signal a reversal in the declining match rates of the primary care specialties.

An increased number of advance programs for students (PGY2) were offered in the Match this year. Applicants matching to these positions will do a year of broad clinical training—generally in internal medicine, general surgery, or a transitional year—before entering advanced positions in 1993. There were 334 programs that offered 1,954 positions, of which 1,299 were filled by U.S. seniors and 219 were filled by other applicants, mainly FMGs. Advanced positions allow matched applicants to link their first year of training (PGY1) with their advanced positions in such a manner that a physical move from one locale to another can be avoided.

There were 122 PGY2 programs in anesthesiology that offered 1,020 advanced positions, an increase of 57 positions from 1991. Of the advanced positions, 66.9% were filled by U.S. seniors, compared with a 72.5% fill rate by U.S. seniors in 1991. Nineteen programs in emergency medicine offered 146 advanced positions, of which 65.1% were filled by U.S. seniors and 84.9% were filled by all applicants, compared with fill rates of 68.5% for U.S. seniors and 82.1% for all applicants in 1991.

There were 922 applicants who participated as 461 couples in the 1992 Match, an increase of 84 couples. Both partners were matched in 89.4% of the 461 couples.

Data describing the trends in positions offered and filled by U.S. seniors and other applicants during the past several years are published annually in *NRMP Data*, available upon written request from the National Resident Matching Program, Suite 201, 2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037-1141.

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## Table 1

### Participation in the National Resident Matching Program in 1992

| Category | U.S. Senior Students | | Other U.S. and Canadian Students* | | U.S. Foreign Graduates | | Foreign-born Foreign Graduates | | Total Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total applicants | 15,202 | 100.0 | 2,817 | 100.0 | 983 | 100.0 | 5,629 | 100.0 | 24,631 | 100.0 |
| Withdrew | 1,172 | 7.7 | 1,141 | 40.5 | 366 | 37.2 | 2,433 | 43.2 | 5,112 | 20.8 |
| Active participants | 14,030 | 92.3 | 1,676 | 59.5 | 617 | 62.8 | 3,196 | 56.8 | 19,519 | 79.2 |
| Matched PGY1 | 12,957 | 92.4 | 930 | 55.5 | 362 | 58.7 | 2,014 | 63.0 | 16,263 | 83.3 |
| Unmatched PGY1 | 1,073 | 7.6 | 746 | 44.5 | 255 | 41.3 | 1,182 | 37.0 | 3,256 | 16.7 |
| Total | 14,030 | 100.0 | 1,676 | 100.0 | 617 | 100.0 | 3,196 | 100.0 | 19,519 | 100.0 |

*Other U.S. and Canadian students consist of graduates from U.S. osteopathic schools and Canadian medical schools; physician candidates, that is, earlier U.S. graduates seeking a position in graduate medical education; and "fifth pathway" students, who are U.S. nationals who have completed course requirements for a medical degree abroad followed by a year of clinical training in a U.S. hospital under medical school sponsorship.

## Table 2

### Positions Offered and Filled by Types of Applicants in 1992

| Specialty | PGY1 Positions Offered | | Applicants Matched | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | U.S. Senior Students | | | Other U.S. Applicants‡ | | | Foreign-born Foreign Graduates | | | Total Applicants | | |
| | | | | % | | | % | | | % | | | % | |
| | No. | %* | No. | * | † | No. | * | † | No. | * | † | No. | * | † |
| Family practice | 2,486 | 12.2 | 1,398 | 10.8 | 56.2 | 157 | 12.2 | 6.3 | 123 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 1,678 | 10.3 | 67.5 |
| Internal medicine | 7,403 | 36.3 | 4,429 | 34.2 | 59.8 | 414 | 32.0 | 5.6 | 1,228 | 61.0 | 16.6 | 6,071 | 37.3 | 82.0 |
| Pediatrics | 2,068 | 10.1 | 1,325 | 10.2 | 64.1 | 102 | 7.9 | 4.9 | 268 | 13.3 | 13.0 | 1,695 | 10.4 | 82.0 |
| Obstetrics–gynecology | 1,109 | 5.4 | 945 | 7.3 | 85.2 | 101 | 7.8 | 9.1 | 25 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1,071 | 6.6 | 96.6 |
| Psychiatry | 1,082 | 5.3 | 526 | 4.1 | 48.6 | 88 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 81 | 4.0 | 7.5 | 695 | 4.3 | 64.2 |
| General surgery | 2,203 | 10.8 | 1,528 | 11.8 | 69.4 | 114 | 8.8 | 5.2 | 140 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 1,782 | 11.0 | 80.9 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 506 | 2.5 | 455 | 3.5 | 89.9 | 42 | 3.3 | 8.3 | 5 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 502 | 3.1 | 99.2 |
| Anesthesiology | 352 | 1.7 | 244 | 1.9 | 69.3 | 13 | 1.0 | 3.7 | 16 | 0.8 | 4.5 | 273 | 1.7 | 77.6 |
| Emergency medicine | 569 | 2.8 | 439 | 3.4 | 77.2 | 92 | 7.1 | 16.2 | 3 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 534 | 3.3 | 93.8 |
| Pathology | 518 | 2.5 | 254 | 2.0 | 49.0 | 25 | 1.9 | 4.8 | 40 | 2.0 | 7.7 | 319 | 2.0 | 61.6 |
| Physical medicine | 112 | 0.5 | 71 | 0.5 | 63.4 | 6 | 0.5 | 5.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 77 | 0.5 | 68.8 |
| Preventive medicine | 14 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.0 | 35.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 7.1 | 6 | 0.0 | 42.9 |
| Diagnostic radiology | 398 | 2.0 | 316 | 2.4 | 79.4 | 65 | 5.0 | 16.3 | 9 | 0.4 | 2.3 | 390 | 2.4 | 98.0 |
| Transitional | 1,324 | 6.5 | 847 | 6.5 | 64.0 | 56 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 68 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 971 | 6.0 | 73.3 |
| Other§ | 250 | 1.3 | 175 | 1.4 | 70.0 | 17 | 1.4 | 6.8 | 7 | .5 | 2.8 | 199 | 1.1 | 79.6 |
| Total | 20,394 | 100.0 | 12,957 | 100.0 | 63.5 | 1,292 | 100.0 | 6.3 | 2,014 | 100.0 | 9.9 | 16,263 | 100.0 | 79.7 |

*Percentage distributions of positions offered and filled among specialties (percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding).
†Percentage of positions offered in specialty that were filled by applicants.
‡This category consists of those students listed in the footnote to Table 1 plus U.S. foreign medical graduates.
§Some specialties include only a small number of available positions in the Match because the majority of positions are filled without a Match, or the specialties use an earlier Match system. These specialties are dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, neurosurgery, otolaryngology, urology, plastic surgery, radiation oncology, and nuclear medicine.